

## **MEETING MINUTES**

Finance Committee

March 25, 2010

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Time – 7:50 P.M.

Members in attendance: Chairman Joanne F. Marden, Cindy Milne, S. Jon Stumpf, Mary O'Donoghue, Richard T. Howe, Mark Merritt, Paul Fortier, Peggy Kruse and Steve Stapinski.

Also present: Anthony Torrisi, Finance Director

### **WARRANT ARTICLES**

#### **P-33 Land Transfer – Town and AVIS**

Committee members briefly discussed whether or not AVIS land could ever be sold. The answer was no but that it could be converted to Conservation land. Dick Howe moved and Mary O'Donoghue seconded to recommend approval of Article P-33. The motion passed with one abstention 7-0-1.

#### **P-53 Paving of Pomeroy and Foster's Pond Roads**

Mr. Torrisi was asked why the debt schedule for this article was set at 5 years. Following a brief discussion, Mr. Torrisi told committee members that he would check into their request. It was noted that this project would be of no cost to the Town. Additionally, Mr. Torrisi noticed while further reviewing the article that no reference was made as to where the money would come from. He stated he would work on a motion to address that.

Mr. Stapinski joined this meeting at 7:15.

Dick Howe moved and Mark Merritt seconded to recommend approval of Article P-53. The motion passed unanimously 9-0.

#### **P-27 Town Yard Land Acquisition**

Ms. Marden asked Committee members for ideas on what to put in this year's Finance Committee Report concerning Article P-27. Lengthy discussion followed including other alternatives of attaining properties such as leasing. Committee members felt that at this time, they did not have adequate information to take a position. All agreed this project was being put before Town Meeting prematurely. Mr. Torrisi invited the Finance Committee to attend the Board of Selectmen's meeting the following week to further discuss Article P-27.

#### **Article 4 – Budget**

Committee members entered into a lengthy discussion subsequent to Ms. Marden asking whether they should recommend the Town Manager's recommended budget number of \$133,223,284 or an amended number. Some issues of concern included having to make a

recommendation with insufficient information on data from the School Department, Special Education costs and the impact on the School Budget from step and track salary increases. Mr. Torrisi was directed to add new budget numbers for Debt Service, State Aid and Unemployment.

Jon Stumpf moved and Mark Merritt seconded to recommend approval of Article 4 for a grand total of \$133,223,284 minus budgeted revenues of \$2,444,384 for a net total of \$130,778,920. The motion passed unanimously 9-0.

#### Article 5 – CIP

Committee members voiced concern over a \$335,000 gap from the number approved by the Town Manager and the number requested by the School Department. Following further discussion, Committee members agreed to hold on a recommendation until further information concerning the individual projects is available.

#### **DIRECTION TO TEAM 470 REPRESENTATIVES**

Following a brief discussion, Committee members agreed on the following directives:  
To investigate Personnel costs, to not use reserves and no reduction to OPEB amount of funding.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Regular Finance Committee Meeting  
Thursday, March 31, 2010  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
7:00 P.M.

Budget Forum  
Wednesday, April 7, 2010  
Memorial Hall Library  
7:30 P.M.

#### **ADJOURNMENT – 9:30 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Carolyn Lynch*  
Recording Secretary